

Scottsdale Fire Officials are anticipating a significant potential for wildland fires, which are fed by dried grasses and flash fuels.

Preventative actions must be taken AND natural area open space (NAOS) must be protected.

The following provides guidance that achieves the dual role of ensuring NAOS protection and also allows for appropriate wild fire prevention.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROTECTS YOUR HOME

Homeowners and contractors should create a well-maintained, live vegetation zone to prevent damage to structures in case of wildland fires. This “DefensibleSpace” acts as a fire break, and should contain only small brush, cacti and trees to prevent a continuous path of flammable materials leading to inhabited structures.

SPECIFIC PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS RECOMMENDED

Maintain a 15-foot zone around your home; thin dead and fallen vegetation, perennial grasses and overgrown bushes; remove dead branches or branches touching the ground. Thin another 15 feet of perennial grasses and annuals for maximum protection.



Overgrown trees and bushes provide fuel for wildfires.

Defensible Space	Initial Defensible Space (See Text for Specific Actions)	Thin & Remove Dead & Fallen	Total to Maintain
Existing Homes	15 ft ¹	15 ft	30 ft
Walls (on lot & perimeter)	5 ft	15 ft	20 ft
Roadways	10 ft	20 ft	30 ft
Construction Sites	Building Envelope	30 ft ²	Varies ²
1. The vegetation maintenance areas may be increased by the Fire Marshal (up to 100-ft) based upon terrain to provide an adequate Defensible Space. 2. Do not stack wood or other flammable materials within the Defensible Space outside the building envelope; remove combustible construction materials.			

Coincide your brush clean up with the solid waste brush collection schedule in your area - unless you plan to haul it away yourself. For the removal service schedule and Do’s and Don’ts guidelines, visit the City of Scottsdale website at www.scottsdaleaz.gov/Recycle/BrushGuidelines.asp



Providing “Defensible Space” will protect your home.

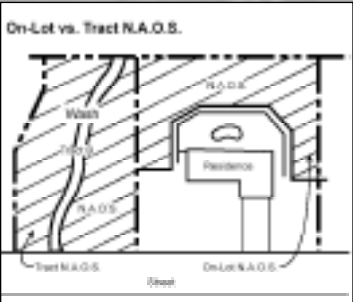
Schedule a wildland safety inspection by calling Scottsdale Fire Department at (480) 312-FIRE.

WHAT IS NAOS?

In the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance (ESLO), which affects the northern two-thirds of the community - north of the Central Arizona Canal, there are requirements for providing open space on each parcel. Natural Area Open Space (NAOS) areas are either natural desert that has been undisturbed by development activity or where development has restored the desert terrain and vegetation to its natural condition.

The amount of NAOS required to be set aside with each development is based upon two factors -- the landform area and land slopes.

It is very important to provide continuous open spaces along the washes in order to sustain both the desert plants and animals. NAOS can be dedicated on individual lots or on common tracts (maintained by homeowners associations, etc).



NAOS Requirements

Land Slope	Lower Desert	Upper Desert	Hillside
0-2%	20%	25%	50%
2% to 5%	25%	25%	50%
5% to 10%	30%	35%	50%
10% to 15%	30%	45%	50%
15% to 25%	30%	45%	65%
Over 25 %	30%	45%	80%
Minimum After Reductions*	15%	20%	40%

(*If applicable. See Sec.6.1060B and Sec. 6.1060F)

PROTECTED NATIVE PLANTS

Protected Native Plants are cacti which are 3 feet or taller and trees which are 4 inches or greater in caliper of the following species:

Trees	
Botanical Name	Common Name
Acacia constricta	Whitethorn Acacia
Acacia greggii	Catclaw Acacia
Berberis haematocarpata	Red Barberry
Canotia holocantha	Crucifixion Thorn
Celtis pallida	Hackberry
Cercidium floridum	Blue Palo Verde
Cercidium microphyllum	Foothill Palo Verde
Chilopsis linearis	Desert Willow
Juniperous species	Juniper
Olneya tesota	Ironwood
Populus fremontii	Cottonwood
Prosopis species	Mesquite
Quercus species	Scrub Oak
Rhus ovata	Sugar Sumac
Vauquelinea Californica	Arizona Rosewood
Cacti	
Botanical Name	Common Name
Carnegiea gigantea	Saguaro
Ferocactus species	Barrel
Fouquieria splendens	Ocotillo
Peniocereus greggii	Night-Blooming Cereus
Yucca elata	Soaptree Yucca

Single-family projects are required to submit a native plant program at the time of submittal for building plan reviews. Commercial projects are required to submit a native plant program no later than the time of application for Development Review Board.

A NATIVE PLANT PERMIT IS REQUIRED TO REMOVE, RELOCATE, OR DESTROY ANY PLANT PROTECTED BY THE ORDINANCE.

Permits will not be issued unless submitted in conjunction with an approved or proposed development project. A permit will be issued after the native plant program has been approved.

Questions? Call Current Planning at (480) 312-7000 and ask for a native plant specialist.

Police & Fire Headquarters
8401 E. Indian School Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85251



BUILDING CONTRACTOR ALERT

Be vigilant! Keep construction site safe and free of combustible materials.

- Limit welding & cutting to cleared areas
- Remove all flammable products & flash fuels
- Maintain the building envelope as a Clear Zone and thin an additional 30-ft to provide adequate Defensible Space
- Do not stack combustible construction materials in Defensible Space.

Contractors found negligent in maintaining a safe building environment are responsible for damages via fines and/or criminal citations for the cost of providing fire protection services and for property loss. (Ord. 3507, Section H124).

For more information, or to report an unsafe construction site, call Scottsdale Fire Department's Fire and Life Safety Division, at 480-312-3473.



Maintaining roadway and wash vegetation is critical for containing fires. The Landscape Maintenance Agreement lists the responsible party for roadway landscaping.



TOP TIPS FOR FIRE PREVENTION

- ☐ Consistently monitor Defensible Space for maximum fire prevention (see chart at inside).
- ☐ Remove flash fuels such as dead grass (Do NOT remove live native plants from NAOS).
- ☐ Trim trees within the 30-ft Defensible Space so the canopy is not touching the ground; remove any dead branches or leaves.
- ☐ Trim grass and foliage around trees.
- ☐ Keep gutters, eaves and roof clear of leaves and other debris.
- ☐ Do not stack wood or other flammable materials with in the 30-ft Defensible Space.
- ☐ Keep a rolled up garden hose with a nozzle attached to an outside hose valve connection.
- ☐ No smoking allowed in NAOS.



Keep your eyes open for signs that indicate the Fire Danger Level throughout the year. Fire Danger Levels are often elevated in early spring.



Contributing factors to changing levels are:

- Volume and moisture of materials
- Single-Digit Humidity Levels
- Triple Digit Temperatures
- High Winds

If you have any questions about the Fire Danger Level in your area, call the Scottsdale Fire Department at (480) 312-FIRE (3473).

Wildland and NAOS

(Natural Area Open Space)



Create a Defensible Space to keep you and your property protected in preparation for the Fire Season

